



**Nisqually River Council  
Citizens Advisory Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
June 14, 2011  
Nisqually Natural Resources Office**

**CAC Members Present:** *Deborah Crosetto, Paul Crosetto, Mary Foster, Fred Michelson, Karelina Resnick, Carl Rotter, Marjorie Smith, Robert Smith*

**Guests Present:** *Bill Barringer*

**Staff Present:** *Sara Scott*

**1. Welcome, Introductions, Minutes, & Agenda Approval**

Robert called the meeting to order at 7:02. The minutes were approved as presented. The agenda was amended to include officer discussions and elections and a forestry update.

Bill introduced himself and said he learned about the CAC from a friend who lives out on Hart's Lake Road. He read the Stewardship Plan, and sees the potential power of the CAC. He's interested in conservation and education, and improving the health of the watershed.

**2. Stream Stewards Update**

No update, although Sara noted that the program is underway.

**3. Officer Nominations and Elections**

The group discussed the roles of committee members and officers, and it was noted that all in the group are presumably either gathering information or present as an advocate for something.

A proposal was put forth that the CAC consider adopting a rotating chair, and discussion indicated that members generally felt that a single chair would be most effective at this time. It was clarified that the Chair leads the committee meetings and develops the agenda in concert with others and staff.

Fred provided some history about the CAC and the NRC, and outlined various developments over the years. He highlighted the distinction between regular *agency* Council members and the *citizens* advisory committee, and the importance of the roles of the Citizens Advisory Committee members.

Deborah suggested that each roving meeting feature the news and information of that place, and involve those who are active to share about their place and local activities.

Carl made a motion to postpone elections until the first meeting scheduled after the first of August, the motion received no second.

Deborah Crosetto was nominated for the position of Chair, Mary Foster nominated for the position of Vice-Chair, and Karelina Resnick nominated to lead educational efforts. A motion was made to approve the slate of nomination, and the motion passed unanimously.

***Newly-elected 2011-2012 CAC Officers are Chair, Deborah Crosetto and Vice-Chair Mary Foster. Karelina Resnick will lead educational activities.***

#### **4. Flood Hazard /CMZ**

Mary noted that flood hazard and channel migration zone issues have been discussed at previous CAC meetings and that there is a lot of concern about flooding and related issues. A group of citizens, Mary among them, have developed a proposal that they felt needed to be supported by the Federal Government, which was taken to leadership and supported by [Congressman Reichert](#). The group requested that a study be conducted to address threats and options, and noted that a multi-agency approach is needed to address the issues on this very dynamic river system. This approach would include collaboration between the National Park, Pierce County, Lewis County, the National Forest, the WA Department of Ecology, and others. Congressman Reichert chaired a meeting last summer, and there was agreement that all the agencies would work to move towards a coordinated approach. The park is working on some of these issues, and has some funds budgeted. Two high-priority projects in the upper watershed are: 1) further protection for the levy and 2) engineered log jams. The Upper Nisqually group is pleased with those developments.

The area of concern includes the highway leading to Mount Rainier national park entrance, includes a sizeable "tourist commercial" area, and a high density residential subdivision area. The levy, which has been in place in 1961, protects a large part of the community, not just a house or two.

The group is opposed to the adoption of the Channel Migration Zone as mapped in 2008. The problem is that the study was based on the assumption that the levy did not exist. They have formed a non-profit organization, they are asking for the study to be reconsidered, and for a new study to be commissioned. They continue to request the inter-agency approach. They want the CMZ plan to include the levy that is maintained by the County. She shared a copy of the letter recently sent from Citizens Supporting the Upper Nisqually River Valley.  
<http://uppernisqually.org/default.aspx>

#### **5. Forestry Committee Update**

Fred reported that the forestry group is working to schedule a large meeting between stakeholders around the 26-28 of July. Once a date is set, invitations and agendas will be sent. The attendees at the February conference indicated they were interested in getting to know the folks around the table better. Kirk, Steve, and Fred will develop the agenda.

There was discussion about the Community Forest Plan, and connections between the two distinct forestry initiatives.

#### **6. Upcoming Events**

NRC Meetings: June 17, 9am to noon, at the Roy City Library; July 15 at the Ashford Fire Hall from 9:30 am – 12:30 pm.

The Nisqually Land Trust river float trips are scheduled for July 16 and 24.  
There will be a NatureMapping event in Ohop Valley on July 23.

#### **7. For the Good of the Order**

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Fred noted that the Tribe is close to implementing the weir  
Discussion about the weir and the salmon recovery effort in the Nisqually watershed.

Bob Smith shared a story of his neighbor who has lost at least 200' of the property to the river. Bob wonders if this committee should/could recommend that a log jam or other solution be implement to help protect the Thurston County property from further erosion.

Carl requested anyone going by [Mill Creek](#) to consider picking up some [Backyard Habitat](#) booklets from the WA Department of Fish and Wildlife to share, these booklets provide an excellent source of information.

Mary noted that noted that Mount Rainier National Park Super [Dave Uberuaga is leaving](#) and moving to the Grand Canyon, it is not known who the new Park Superintendant will be.

#### **8. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:33 pm.

**NEXT MEETING: Tuesday August 9, 2011. 7-9pm  
SE Thurston Fire Authority's Yelm Station, [709 Mill Road SE, Yelm WA](#)**